



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

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May 27, 2014

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants
FROM: Wendy Holmes, R.N., Head *WH*
Immunization Branch
SUBJECT: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Requirements for 2014 and 2015

The purpose of this memo is to notify NCIP providers of changes which became effective January 1, 2014 and those which will become effective January 1, 2015. These changes were recently announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which administers the VFC program. Many of these have been recommendations and are or will be transitioning to requirements.

2014

Beginning this year, the following requirements became effective:

- Transfers of VFC vaccine (once approved by the Branch) will be coordinated by the Immunization Branch. Please call the Helpdesk for guidance on proper storage and handling techniques when transporting vaccines.
- Providers' designated primary VFC coordinators and back-up coordinators must complete the annual training requirement. (In addition to a VFC Compliance Site Visit, the "You Call the Shots" on-line modules or attendance at upcoming NCIP regional workshops will meet this requirement. More information will be sent shortly about the regional workshops.)
- Providers are required to have working calibrated thermometers with Certificate of Traceability and Calibration Testing to monitor temperatures in all refrigerator and freezer compartments used for VFC vaccine storage.

2015

Beginning in 2015, the following requirements will become effective:

- Clinics/practices serving both VFC and non-VFC eligible children must store VFC stock separate from other stock types. Accurately entering doses administered by eligibility into the NCIR will meet this requirement.
- All vaccine management /storage and handling plans must include a review date, the printed name, signature, and title of the preparer.
- A glycol-encased probe thermometer must be placed in a central area of the storage unit with the vaccines.
- VFC providers will have to have at least one back up thermometer with a current certificate of calibration on hand (not stored in unit alongside current thermometer).
- In addition to twice a day temperature assessments, each temperature reading must be accompanied by: 1) the time of the reading; and, 2) the name (or initials) of the person who assessed and recorded the reading.

The CDC has indicated that they will announce future requirements as soon as possible to allow for communications with staff and providers.

Attached you will find the following NCIP documents: the *Minimum Required Vaccine Ordering, Storage and Handling Procedures*, the *Routine Vaccine Management Plan*, and the *Emergency Vaccine Management Plan/Disaster Recovery Plan*.

Providers who have questions or concerns should contact the NCIP Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Attachments

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| CC: | SMT | Regional Immunization Staff Desiree Elekwa-Izuakor Taryn Edwards | CO Staff Peter Graber Jason Swartz | Vaccine Manufacturers Terri Pennington Gregg Griggs | Steve Shore Frank Skwara Joy Reed |
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